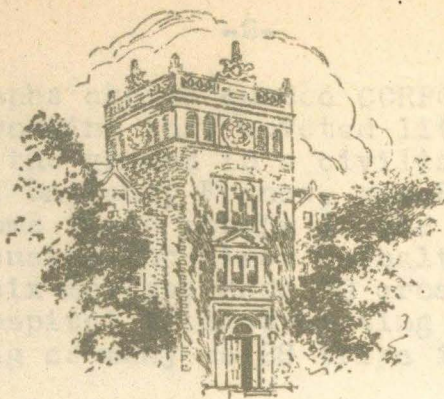


To the

FRONT

Number 72
October 19, 1945



from
MUHLENBERG

Greetings:

This letter, unless I miss my guess, will be a hop, skip and jump report. If it hits the English Department it will probably get me an E--and I don't mean for effort. But this really has been old home week at Muhlenberg with men returning from the battlefronts of the world at the rate of three or four a day. Every time I look up I see another one walking in the door. I suspect before this letter is completed there will be a few more of those very pleasant interruptions. We'll tell you about some of them as we move along.

Just to get it off the list early, we'll tell you right away that we lost our third and fourth football games since the last letter and tomorrow we end the season playing Lehigh at Bethlehem. Here's hoping I'll be able to tell you about at least one victory. If that should be impossible, you can do what Gus Minifri does--brag about last year's basketball team and tell the boys there's another good one coming up this year. Two weeks ago we went to Lancaster to play Franklin and Marshall and came home on the short end of a 30 to 0 score. Last week, in the only home game of the season, we lost to Rutgers 19 to 6. But those of us who have seen this year's team play won't sell them short. We'll admit they need experience, we'll admit they need plenty of practice above the four HOURS A WEEK that is given them under the present tight program. But we'll root our heads off about the fight that have demonstrated in every one of the four games they have played.

The soccer team has done a little better. We defeated East Stroudsburg State Teachers College 2 to 0, lost to Penn State 7 to 1 and lost to Temple 1 to 0. The season ends Saturday when we play the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. It looks as if soccer has been added to the roster of Muhlenberg sports.

Talking about soccer reminds us that the new commanding officer of our Navy Academic Refresher Unit, Lieutenant Theodore Abel, is quite an enthusiast having played at Springfield College. Lieutenant Abel came aboard little less than two weeks ago from Newberry College, where he was commanding officer of the V-12 Unit. He's doing a swell job and he's a good fellow to have on board. In civilian life he was a coach and physical training director in the Pittsburgh schools.

Within a short time things will be getting back to normal around here. NED KEITER '38, who has been on leave of absence to serve in the Navy since July 1942, dropped in today and will be back on the job in the business office shortly after November 1. He's a civilian again and, if anything, a bit bigger than he was when he put on the uniform on which he now wears two gold stripes. With the new reductions in Navy points for discharge, we expect JOHN WAGNER '31 will be back in the early part of the winter to take over his old baby--the Alumni Office. Perhaps he'll be on the job resuming his letters to you fellows even before that. Incidentally, he is now instructor training officer of the Recruit Training Command at the Naval Training Station in Bainbridge. In that job he is guiding the educational destinies of the recruits in training on the Maryland base. He'll be glad to see any of you fellows. Some of you fellows will remember that WAGNER came in here as Alumni Secretary and then, when KEITER entered service, took over the business office and did both jobs until he too left for service in January 1944. And just to remind you--he's the fellow who really started these service letters rolling out to you.

Just to be sure we're not missing anybody, we'll get out the diary to tell you about some of the visitors we have had during the past few weeks and to remind you that it's a great thrill to see you fellows come back to your old haunts at Muhlenberg.

A few paragraphs ago we quoted CORPORAL COSMO "GUS" MINIFRI '42. He's back again wearing that coveted little gold bird and trying to get his feet on the ground in a civilian job. Gus had quite a time of it in Africa, England, France, and Belgium. After the African campaign and some three months in the States he landed on a hospital ship that evacuated the first casualties from Omaha Beach and then, in the next six months, made 40 cross-channel trips. Later he was assigned to a hospital train operating in England and travelled some 20,000 miles, doing as many as 28 trips in 30 days.

LIEUTENANT (JG) JOHN M. METZGER '42 is back in civies again, headed for the Harvard School of Law. He was discharged October 13 after 10½ months in the Pacific as a Hellcat pilot. To his credit are 40 combat missions in the Philippine and Okinawa campaigns and some 50 local combat patrols. He flew from the decks of the Kitkun Bay when it was shot up on the night before the Lingayen Gulf push, from the Shamrock Bay, and finally from the Savo. He and his wingman are credited with shooting down a Jap dive bomber off Lingayen on January 7. Also back in civies this week were RALPH HAAF '46, Army Air Force B-17 pilot who flew 35 missions over Europe, and DON MARTIN '44, who came in just this morning to complete his schedule for entering College November 1.

At the game the other day we spotted LIEUTENANT W. GORDON WILLIAMS '39, back from 25 months of overseas service with the Navy and now stationed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard; LIEUTENANT JIM KILPATRICK '33, who had two tours of duty aboard aircraft carriers in the Pacific and who reached Tokyo just before heading home for his point discharge; LIEUTENANT (JG) JACK CLIFFORD '43 and his long-time side kick LIEUTENANT (JG) CHUCK MORAN '43, separated at long last; and LIEUTENANT CHARLES R. EISENHART '33, now stationed at Ft. Dix with the Army Air Forces. Two things will keep Moran and Clifford from seeing as much of each other as they did through those long months in the Pacific. The Navy has assigned Jack to Lido Beach, Long Island, and Chuck to Bainbridge. To complicate matters still further, Jack was married last Thursday to the former Eileen North of Ramsey and had his bride back to the campus as part of the honeymoon.

LIEUTENANT (JG) BLAIR KRIMMEL '43, SERGEANT JOE PODANY '42 and CAPTAIN JACK JUPINA '41 had a Victory Reunion all their own the other day in the Alumni Office. Blair came in after spending 18 months on the USS Abbott, a destroyer that covered itself with action and glory in the Pacific and aboard which he served as assistant gunnery officer using some of Ira Zartman's V-T fuzes with marked success. His actions include the Marianas, Leyte, Luzon, Corregidor, Palawan, Cebu, Zambango, Northern Mindanao and 50 days off Japan with the Third Fleet just before the war ended. He started home the day before the Japs threw in the sponge. Podany has been in England since June 29, 1942 on duty at the great general supply depot near Cheltenham. In the signal corps, he did plenty of hard work in maintaining radio equipment and a long time ago was awarded the Bronze Star for his work in installing radios in some of the vehicles of General Patton's Mighty Third. Joe came back to college next month together with GEORGE SWEDA '43, RALPH HAAF '46, and a few other boys. Jupina will begin teaching any day now in the high school in Atlantic Highlands, N.J.

CORPORAL GENE MCLAIN '42, who has been in service since he left college in July 1942, came home the other day after seven months overseas. He saw action in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany with the 39th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron of the Ninth Air Force. His battle stars represent the Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes. The pictures he brought with him tell a story of just what the Air Force was doing.

When we told you about that reunion, two paragraphs above, we forgot to include LIEUTENANT (JG) LE ROY ZIEGENFUSS '44 and his stories of his tour of duty on the USS Augusta taking President Truman, Jimmy Byrnes etc. to the Potsdam Conference. Ziggy was athletic officer aboard the ship, plus a few other things, and had several conversations with the President. There's nothing too good for our Ziggy. Ask him, when you see him, how the President is at picking the winners in boxing bouts. At the Mask and Dagger club production a week or two ago we bumped into FIRST LIEUTENANT PAUL SCHANTZ '32, another of the boys just home after 31 months in Africa, Italy, Sicily, and France. Paul was with the Signal Corps and knows a lot more about Radar than he ever dreamed he would know.

LEONARD ELLIS '44 was discharged with 122 points (nine combat stars included) after 33 months with the Army Air Force working on B-24 bombers flying out of England. On his return trip he hit five countries in as many days, proving again what an age of wonders are ahead. But we don't need to tell most of you fellows about them. You can tell us. CAPTAIN JEREMIAH SILFIES '39, who wears the combat medical badge and who had a year overseas as a dentist with combat forces, has a lot of good stories about things Army dentists do other than pull teeth. His combat stars are a bit of proof to the point. He's now stationed at Camp Bowie, Texas wondering a bit about discharge and private practice.

According to the newspapers, four more of our medics have been released from service and we saw a fifth just yesterday. Back home again are MAJOR CLIFFORD TREXLER '22, who went overseas in May 1943 and who for the last year was in charge of a 2,000 bed hospital for prisoners in Italy; MAJOR HERMAN F. MECKSTROTH '28, who had 32 months in the China-Burma-India theatre; MAJOR HENRY A. PIERCE '30, who was in Pearl Harbor when the Japs attacked and who spent two years in Hawaii; CAPTAIN HAROLD EVERETT '34, who won a Bronze Star while serving with a Ninth Army armored division; and MAJOR THOMAS FISTER '31, on temporary duty at the Allentown hospital now that he is in civilian clothes again. We still have to get Tommy's story, but we do have a record that he also was overseas.

The Muhlenberg lawyers also are beginning to return. WOODROW W. KISTLER '34, who saw service in Italy, is sticking his nose into his lawbooks once again with HARRY CREVELING '43 and KARL DONECKER '29. CHARLIE HELWIG '27, who spent a year on guard duty along the New York waterfront, also was discharged last month and is back with the firm of Gernerdt, Helwig and Gernerdt. HENRY V. SCHEIRER '29, who was with the Red Cross in England and France for more time than we have a definite record of, came home on the the Gripsholm on October 9. Sorry, we don't know much about his present status.

LIEUTENANT JIM TYSON isn't a graduate of Muhlenberg, but he shares the enthusiasm of his father, his mother, and his brother and sister for the institution that now is his home. He came back the other day after more than two years with the Office of Strategic Services in London and Italy. His job was to help pick the targets some of you boys hit.

When we started this letter we warned you there might be interruptions. LIEUTENANT FOSTER BLAIR '42 of the Navy Air Force just dropped in with his lovely blonde wife and is getting set to join the boys back on the campus when the new term begins in November. Another Navy pilot, LIEUTENANT LEE DEITRICK '39, also dropped in to give us a new address in Lock Haven and to tell us that he'd be a civilian in another month or so. And WAYNE HOLBEN, who has had his tour of duty in the Navy, most of it in England, came home last night and immediately switched to civies.

But if we don't get down on the mailbag--it's really full this week--there'll be no place left to tell you the rest of the news--but I'm likely to rave on today because Elsie isn't on the job. It's a fine time to get a dose of tonsillitis, but that's what she has gone and done which means that Kitty is the Girl Friday for this letter.

From the mail we had a tip that LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANK BROWN '19 is a full colonel now, still in Italy, and wearing a Bronze Star in addition to his silver eagles. Other people's mail also brings the news that SERGEANT HAROLD HELFRICH '44 is teaching news writing, special features, Freshman composition, and American Literature in the Armed Forces Institute in Burma. We had a letter from him too, but he evidently was too modest to tell us about that. But now for our own mail--boy will we ever get started on it:

When PFC RAY NIES '45 of the Marines gets back from Japan he'll bring a first hand picture of atomic bomb damage. He got to Japan the other day and is living at Nagasaki. Enroute he met STEVE OGREZIK, RED IACOE, HANK BAIETTI, TOM MALONE, MOE SNYDER, and HANK NICKLES, all of the V-12 unit. He also informs us that CAPTAIN MIKE SCELSI, former Marine Corps officer-in-charge at Muhlenberg is still on Saipan. ENSIGN JAMES HEMSTREET '44 writes from Okinawa where he is counting and recounting his points, still unable to find more than 28.

When he does get enough points he wants to get to law school--his old ambition. CAPTAIN LAWRENCE EMERT '28 expects to be home soon after almost five years in the Army, three of them overseas--sorry, we don't know just where, but we suspect it's somewhere in Europe. ENSIGN CHUCK GOODALL '43 writes about a Muhlenberg confab he had with DICK ZELLERS '43 and BOB STAHL '43 down in Hawaii. We finally got that Jap flag--and dandy too--that LIEUTENANT ART FIERRO '44 sent us from Okinawa.

CORPORAL ERNEST WALLANDER '46 writes from Germany that he's on his way home and ready to get back to the books at Muhlenberg. Out in the Philippines, CAPTAIN BOB ROWLAND '41 is trying to keep in touch with Muhlenberg men. He's in Manila and he suggest any Mules in the area lock him up at his dispensary on the corner of 13th and Chicago Streets, just around the corner from the Customs House. The only Muhlenberg man he has met out there is MAJOR ALFRED W. DUBBS '27, stationed with the Fourth General Hospital in Manila. They might get together with WILMER HENNINGER, SK3/C '30, who reports on the swell sermon preached by Navy CAPTAIN LUTHER GERHART '22. ENSIGN CARL SLEMMER '45 reports he also is on his way to Manila and from there expects to head on to Japan. On the transport taking him into the Pacific, he met LIEUTENANT SAM SHIMER '33, who should just about have enough points to come back home again.

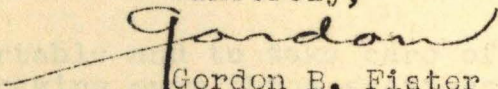
RICHARD STAMM '29 dropped us a line the other day to tell us that he has been discharged from service and is now in the insurance business in Pottstown. Stamm and Son is the name and the office is in the Security Trust Building. Out in the Pacific, PRIVATE JOE BOKROSH '36 had a rough time of it, but except for losing a few pounds and getting a few scratches he came through in good shape. He's at San Jose', in Northern Luzon, right now looking forward to coming home soon. AL BESBRIS '41 says that down on Guam the big question is "When are we going home". It will be a pleasure for him to put on civilian clothes again after 3½ long years in Navy blue. WARREN HIMMELBERGER '43 writes from Shanghai and his story will be a feature in the Alumni Magazine. It's a dandy. CORPORAL BOB KRIMMEL '44 has also transferred his operations to other climes and now is at the Atsugi Air Base in Japan. He's looking for Muhlenberg men who may be in the Tokyo or Yokohama areas. With censorship lifted, JACK DOOLIN '35 could tell us that he is doing duty on the airstrip at Efate in the New Hebrides. At long last PRIVATE HARRY BLANK '48 has found a home with the Sixth Division stationed at San Juan in the Philippines. But he indicates the unit is bound for Korea or Japan so he expects to see a bit more of the world before coming home. If he goes to Korea, he may meet GORDON TREISBACH '37, who, in his last letter from Okinawa, expected to move on to that occupation force.

Speaking about boys coming home, TIPPY JOHNSON '31 is on his way from Europe, FRANCIS GENDALL '30 is eligible to come back from the Pacific, and BILL DEISHER '46 is at his home in Fleetwood, wearing civies once again. TUSS BECKER '43 walked in just a minute or two wearing his Varsity M. Sweater and ready to join the boys who will be resuming their college work November 1.

But there are more of the boys who will not be coming back. We can report now that ENSIGN JOHN KOEHLER '42, who has been missing in action since September 25, 1943, has been declared dead; that ENSIGN ERNEST TRIEMER, one of the V-12 boys, was among those who lost their lives on the USS indianapolis; that LIEUTENANT JEROME G. HUNT '44, reported missing in action over Germany on December 19, 1944, now has been reported dead; and that ARMOND WESTLEY '29, who was a prisoner of the Japs, died in a Jap camp in the Philippines on June 17, 1942.

Sorry we can't go into the letters from the states or list the promotions in this letter because we have once again hit the bottom. Meanwhile, thanks to all of you for your letters and remember we are anxious to hear from you while you are in uniform and when you get back to civies.

Sincerely,



Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office

P.S. Christmas packages to the boys overseas were mailed this week. Keep your eyes open for them. Those addressed to the boys still in the states will go out in December so keep your address up to date in our files.